

June 19, 2000

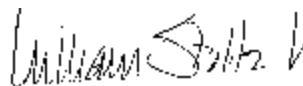
David P. Boergers  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street NE  
Washington, D.C. 20426

RE: ESA (Endangered Species Act) Section 7 Biological Opinion on the Interim Protection Plan for Operation of the Wells Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project Number 2149) [Consultation Number F/NWR/2000/00423]

Dear Mr. Boergers:

Enclosed please find the NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service) Biological Opinion for operation of the Wells Hydroelectric Project pursuant to the March 1998, and August 1999, listings of Upper Columbia River spring chinook salmon and summer steelhead, respectively, as endangered, and the March 1999, listing of Middle Columbia River steelhead as threatened. As stated in the Biological Opinion, NMFS has determined that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of these species and is not likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William Stelle, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

William Stelle, Jr.  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Bill Yallup, Yakima Indian Nation  
Olney Patt, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon  
Samuel Penney, Nez Perce Tribe  
Antone Minthorn, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Donald Sampson, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission  
Joseph Pakootas, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation  
Bruce Wynne, Spokane Tribe of Indians  
Brian Cates, USFWS Mid Col RFRO  
Bob Heinith, CRITFC

continued:

Rick Klinge, Douglas County PUD  
Shane Bickford, Douglas County PUD  
Tom Lorz, CRITFC  
Cary Feldmann, Puget Power Company  
Rod Woodin, WA Dept of Fisheries  
Dennis Rohr  
Jerry Marco, Colville Conf Tribes  
Larry Brown, WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife  
Bill Hevlin, NMFS  
Bob Dach, NMFS  
Jim Hastreiter, FERC  
Merrill Hathaway, FERC  
Bryan Nordland, NMFS  
Paul Ward, Yakima Nation Fisheries  
Steve Parker, Yakima Nation Fisheries  
Stuart Hammond, Grant County PUD  
Malcolm Mclellan, Attorney at Law  
Ron Boyce, OR Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
Robert McDonald, Chelan Co PUD  
Chuck Peven, Chelan Co PUD  
Randy Settler, Yakama Indian Nation  
Tim Weaver, Cockrill and Weaver, P.S.  
Carl Merkle, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation  
Tim Brewer, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation